

REMARKS

Claims 1-171 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 10, 12-18, 22, 24-31, 34-42, 48-54, 58, 60-66, 70, 72-78, 82-89, 93-100, 104-111, 115, 117-122, 126, 128-133, 137, 139-144, 148-155, 159-166, 170 and 171 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heaton (U.S. Pat. No. 5,992, 052) in view of Lo (U.S. Pat. No. 6,385,738). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicant disagrees with the foregoing rejection, Applicant has amended the indicated allowable claims into independent form. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 13, 25, 31, 36-37, 49, 61, 73, 84, 95, 106, 117, 128, 139, 150 and 161 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to present Claims 1-6, 10, 12-18, 22, 24-31, 34-42, 48-54, 58, 60-66, 70, 72-78, 82-89, 93-100, 104-111, 115, 117-122, 126, 128-133, 137, 139-144, 148-155, 159-166, 170 and 171 as originally filed in one or more continuing applications.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 7-9, 11, 19-21, 23, 32, 33, 43-45, 55-57, 59, 67-69, 71, 79-81, 90-92, 101-103, 112-114, 116, 123-125, 127, 134-136, 138, 145-147, 156-158 and 167-169 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant

has amended claims 7, 11, 19, 23, 32, 43, 47, 55, 59, 67, 71, 79, 90, 101, 112, 116, 123, 127, 134, 138, 145, 156, and 167 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 7-9, 11, 19-21, 23, 32, 33, 43-45, 55-57, 59, 67-69, 71, 79-81, 90-92, 101-103, 112-114, 116, 123-125, 127, 134-136, 138, 145-147, 156-158 and 167-169 should now be in condition for allowance.

In addition, the remaining claims have been amended to depend from the allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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